

10-11-00

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL <small>(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))</small>	Attorney Docket No. 42626/204668
	First Inventor or Application Identifier: Brandon Mitchell Burrell
	Title of Invention: DATA STRUCTURE, METHODS, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCTS FOR STORING TEXT DATA STRINGS USED TO DISPLAY TEXT INFORMATION ON A DISPLAY TERMINAL
	Express Mail Label No. EL432824999US

ADDRESS TO: **ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
BOX PATENT APPLICATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20231**

Transmitted herewith for filing in the United States Patent Office is a patent application for:

Inventors: Brandon Mitchell Burrell

1. ☒ The Filing Fee has been calculated as shown below:
2. ☐ Applicant claims Small Entity Status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

	No. Filed	No. Extra	Small Entity Rate Fee 0	Large Entity Rate Fee 1
BASIC FEE			\$0	\$710
TOTAL CLAIMS:	39 - 20 =	19	X 9 = \$0	x 18 = \$342
INDEP CLAIMS:	3 - 3 =	0	X 40 = \$0	x 80 = \$0
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED			+135 = \$	+270 = \$
*If the difference in Column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in Column 2.			TOTAL \$	TOTAL \$ 1052

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3. ☒ Specification; Total Pages 49
4. ☒ 8 Sheets of Formal Drawing(s) (35 USC 113)
5. ☒ Declaration and Power of Attorney; [Total Pages 3]
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(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
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12. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449; 10 Copies of IDS Citations
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18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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"Express Mail" mailing label number EL432824999US

Date of Deposit October 10, 2000

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Gwen Brickhoeffter

CLT01/4446192v1

**DATA STRUCTURE, METHODS, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCTS
FOR STORING TEXT DATA STRINGS USED TO DISPLAY TEXT
INFORMATION ON A DISPLAY TERMINAL**

5 **CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

 The present application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application Serial
No. 60/216,901 entitled SYSTEMS, METHODS, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM
PRODUCTS FOR MANAGING THE DISPLAY OF INFORMATION OUTPUT BY A
COMPUTER PROGRAM filed July 7, 2000, the contents of which are incorporated
10 herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

 The present invention relates generally to the display of text data from a computer
program on a display terminal. More particularly, the present invention relates to a data
15 structure that maintains the text data used by the computer program in an addressable
form. To display text, the computer program provides a unique ID number, called a
token, which allows the desired text data to be located in the data structure. Based on
the token, a display management module retrieves and displays the text data associated
with the token on the display terminal.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

 Many computer programs operate in conjunction with a display terminal to
provide information to the user of the computer program concerning the operation of the
computer program and to query the user for input of information. For example, Basic
25 Input/Output System (BIOS) software is used in many computer systems to initialize
operation of the computer system when it is either powered on or is reset. The BIOS
software typically performs a power on system test (POST) that checks the status of
components of the computer system to determine whether certain peripherals are
installed. The BIOS software also ascertains the amount of memory resources the
30 computer system has, performs diagnostic testing on the computer components and
peripherals, and installs drivers for interacting with the peripherals. Further, the BIOS
software also includes a setup mode that allows the user to alter the configuration of

some of the parameters of the BIOS software.

Importantly, during POST, as the BIOS software initializes the components and peripherals and performs system checks, information concerning these operations is displayed to the user. This information allows the user or computer support personnel to determine whether all of the computer components and peripherals are properly installed and whether there are errors associated with these components and peripherals. Further, in the setup mode, the parameters of the BIOS software are displayed to the user so that the user may confirm or alter these parameters. Additionally, the BIOS software may display logos associated with the developer of the BIOS software and/or the owner of the computer system. Further, the BIOS software may display progress bars and boxes.

In conventional computer programs, such as BIOS software, the text and graphical data used for displaying information on the display terminal is typically located within the source code of the computer program. For example, text information for displaying text data strings on the display terminal is typically embedded in the source code. Further, graphical data for logos and progress bars is also embedded in the source code. The location of the text and graphical information in the source code is problematic for many reasons.

For instance, the addition of the text and graphical data in the source code increases the overall size of the code. The display of text and graphical data requires not only the character codes for the data but also font, color, and various other attributes associated with the format in which the data is displayed.

Further, and more importantly, the embedding of the text and graphical data in the source code makes updating of the text and graphics displayed by the computer program much more difficult. For example, an important limitation to the export of most computer systems and computer programs to other countries is the translation of the outputs displayed to the user in a language that is understandable to the user of the computer system or computer program. As many software programs embed the textual and graphical information in the source code of the computer program, to modify the program to display the information in the proper language for the user, the source code must be reprogrammed with the appropriate text and graphics and recompiled. Additionally, besides the effort of rewriting the source code, multiple copies of the

modified source code must be maintained for each of the languages that the source code has been rewritten. This becomes burdensome as updates to the source code must be performed for each language version of the source code, and each version of the source code must be maintained in storage. For large-scale systems involving millions of lines of code and modules, the maintenance, updating, and storage requirements for all of the different language versions of the code may be enormous.

An additional problem is that computer programs, such as BIOS software, typically display graphical information such as boxes, progress bars, and logos. The code for these graphics is also typically embedded in the source code. As such, changes to the graphic displays or logos also require rewriting of the source code. This creates problems for customization of the output displays. Specifically, it may be advantageous to display different graphics for different customers. For example, some customers may wish to include their logos in the display as the computer program operates.

Similarly, the language data is typically embedded in the source code of the computer program along with a specific font for displaying the text. As such, desired changes of the font of either particular text or all of the text in the source code requires reprogramming and recompiling of the source code.

In addition to the problems associated embedding the text and graphical data in the source code of the program is the added problem that some languages use graphical characters, as opposed to ASCII characters. The Asian language of Kanji, for example, includes graphical characters that require a double byte character set (DBCS) for display. These graphical characters are typically data storage intensive. As such, embedding DBCS characters and their associated font data in the source code of the computer program can dramatically increase the overall size of the program.

In addition to the problems associated with storage and accessibility of text and graphical data, there are also problems associated with redirection of displayed information to a remote display. Specifically, there are many applications in which it is advantageous to redirect the displayed information to a terminal other than the terminal associated with the computer system. Additionally, in some instances, it is advantageous to redirect the display to a different location such that the user may interact with the computer without requiring the user to be physically located proximate to the computer

system.

Although display redirection is advantageous, there are some drawbacks. Specifically, the communication link between the computer system and the remote display may be any of a number of different mechanisms. For example, the communication link may be either a serial port, parallel port, network port, etc. In light of this, many conventional computer programs are programmed to include the proper protocol for transmitting the information to the remote display using one of these data communication formats. As such, there must be either separate versions of the program each having code embedded in the source code or different modules embedded in the source code for transmitting the information in the proper communication format. As such, changes in the code for transmitting the display information must be implemented by altering the source code associated with the program, which can again become burdensome.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

As set forth below, the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention overcome many of the deficiencies identified with the display of information from a computer program on a display terminal. In particular, the present invention provides systems, methods, and computer program products for managing the display output of computer programs. Further, the present invention provides data structure, methods, and computer program products for storing data strings used by a display management module to display information on a display terminal. Additionally, the present invention provides systems, methods, and computer program products for redirecting the display of information from a computer program to a remote display terminal.

Specifically, in one embodiment, the present invention provides a system containing a display management module that interfaces with the computer program and the display terminal. The display management module is an intermediate module that interprets display commands from the computer program and controls the display to output the desired information. The system further includes data modules stored on a computer-readable medium containing text and graphical data used by the computer

program to display information on the display terminal. Individual 16 bit identification numbers called tokens are associated with the text strings located in the data modules.

In this embodiment, the source code for the computer program includes the tokens associated with the data strings stored in the language modules, instead of the associated data strings themselves. In operation, when the computer program wishes to display information on the display terminal, the computer program transmits the token associated with the data string to the display management module. The display management module retrieves the data string associated with the token and also any associated font data. Using the data string and the font data, the display management module displays the information on the display terminal.

Advantageously, because the data strings are tokenized and stored in a computer-readable medium separate from the source code of the computer program, these data strings can be easily updated without requiring reprogramming of the source code. Thus, if a software developer wishes to change the text of the message displayed to the user, or the logo, or the text box displayed to the user, the developer need only change the data string in the appropriate module and not reprogram the source code associated with the computer program. Further, because the font data associated with each character of the data strings is stored in the font and language modules, as opposed to the source code of the computer program, the overall size of the source code of the computer program is reduced.

Additionally, the display management module may also be used to change the language with which data strings are displayed. Specifically, the display management module may operate in conjunction with a plurality of language data modules, where each language data module includes data strings representing the language data translated into a selected language. The system of this embodiment further includes a main language module header stored on a computer-readable medium and associated with the display management module. The main language module header includes individual pointers indicating the location in a computer-readable storage medium in which each language data module is located.

In operation, to display a data string in a selected language, the display management module receives a token and an indication of the desired language. The

display management module accesses the main language module header and retrieves the pointer associated with the language data module corresponding to the desired language. Further, the display management module, using the pointer, accesses the language data module, retrieves the data string associated with the token, and displays the data string on the display terminal in the desired language.

In addition to providing systems, methods, and computer program products for managing the display of information on a display terminal, the present invention also provides data structure, methods, and computer program products for storing data strings used by a display management module to display information on a display terminal.

Specifically, the data structure of the present invention includes the data strings used by the computer program to display information on a display terminal. The data strings are stored in the data structure and are associated with unique tokens located in the computer program. The data strings are accessed by the display management module based on the tokens and used for display. As discussed above, by placing the data strings in individual data modules, as opposed to embedding them in the computer program, the data strings are accessible for updating and alteration.

Specifically, in one embodiment, the present invention provides a data structure stored on a computer-readable medium having a string data area that includes data strings representing language data. Each character of each data string is a character selected from the group consisting of standard ASCII, extended ASCII, and double byte characters (DBCS). The characters in a data string that are standard ASCII (less than code 80 hexadecimal) or extended ASCII (codes greater than or equal to 80 hexadecimal) with codes less than a predetermined escape code are stored by their ASCII representations in the string data area. Extended ASCII characters having characters codes greater than or equal to the escape code are stored as two-byte codes with the ASCII character code preceded by the escape code. Further, the double byte characters are encoded sequentially as two-byte codes whose starting value is found by taking the value one greater than the escape code and making the next byte zero. For example, if the escape code is selected to be 0E0 hexadecimal then the first DBCS character code would be 0E100, and the 16 bit values may therefore be incremented sequentially from 0E101 to 0FFFF hexadecimal.

In this embodiment of the present invention, to display a data string, the display management module receives the specific token associated with the data string to be displayed and a command to display the data string from the computer program. Based on the token, the display management module accesses the location in the string data area where the data string associated with the token is located. Using the rules set by the encoding scheme, the display management module interprets the code stored for each character and sequentially displays each character of the data string on the display terminal.

The above described data structure is advantageous for many reasons. Specifically, as discussed, the data structure may include ASCII, extended ASCII, and DBCS characters. As such, the data structure may be designed to contain data strings for not only languages that require textual representations in ASCII and extended ASCII characters, but also for languages, such as Kanji, that require graphical characters that are displayed using DBCS characters. Importantly, the individual characters of each data string are encoded in the data structure, such that storage for the data structure is minimized, but contains all of the needed characters for displaying the data strings in the desired language.

Further, the data structure also includes extended ASCII and DBCS font data areas for storing the font data associated with extended ASCII and DBCS characters. This is advantageous because the font data associated with each DBCS character is relatively large and requires added storage. For this reason, in some embodiments, it is advantageous to only store the font data associated with the DBCS characters present in the data strings, thereby minimizing storage space. Additionally, in some instances, the data structure need not contain font data for extended ASCII characters if the extended ASCII characters for the language are displayable with the standard ASCII characters set included in the font module.

As such, in one embodiment of the present invention, the double byte characters of a data string are encoded with unique 16 bit codes that are stored in the string data area. Further, font data associated with the double byte characters is stored in the double byte character font data area, and font data for extended ASCII characters is stored in the extended ASCII font data area, if the extended ASCII character is not displayable with a standard ASCII set in the font module.

As an example, in one embodiment, the double byte characters are sequentially encoded such that the first DBCS character encountered is represented by the two-byte code E100 in hexadecimal, where E0 hexadecimal is the escape code. The remaining
30 unique DBCS characters are encoded with sequential 16 bit code values as they are encountered during the encoding process. Because the DBCS characters are encoded in

the data string area as code values of E100 to FFFF hexadecimal, the extended ASCII characters having ASCII values in the range of E0 to FF hexadecimal must be designated in the data string area such that they are distinguishable from DBCS characters. As such, in this embodiment, the extended ASCII characters having ASCII values in the range of E0 to FF hexadecimal are encoded in the string data area with an escape code of E0 in hexadecimal preceding the ASCII representation of the extended ASCII character. Further, if the language in which the characters are to be displayed is not displayable with the standard ASCII included in the font module, the font data associated with the extended ASCII characters is stored in the extended ASCII font data area. With respect to the DBCS font data, the font data for each DBCS character located in the data strings is sequentially stored in the DBCS font data area, such that the location of the data in the DBCS font data area corresponds with the two-byte code value associated with DBCS character stored in the data string area.

In operation, to display a data string, the display management module receives the token associated with the data string and the command to display the data string from the computer program. The display management module accesses the location in the string data area where the data string is located and sequentially displays characters of the data string on the display terminal. If a character in the data string is less than E0 hexadecimal, then the character is either a standard ASCII character or an unencoded extended ASCII character. In this instance, the display management module retrieves the ASCII character code stored in the string data area and displays the character on the display terminal. If the data string is equal to E0 hexadecimal, then the next character in the data string is an extended ASCII character having an ASCII code in the range of E0 to FF hexadecimal. In this instance, the display management module retrieves the character code stored in the next byte of the string data area for display. In either case, if the character is an extended ASCII character, it is first determined whether the extended ASCII character is displayable with the standard ASCII character set in the font module. If it is, then the extended ASCII character is displayed using standard ASCII font from the font module. If not, the display management module uses the character code to locate the extended font data stored in the extended ASCII font data area to display the extended ASCII character on the display terminal.

10 In addition to including data structures containing language data, the present invention may also include data structures containing font data and logo data. For example, as mentioned above, the present invention may include a data structure having a font module stored in a computer-readable medium and associated with the display management module. The font module contains font data for displaying standard ASCII
15 characters. Importantly, by placing the font data for standard ASCII characters in a separate module, the font used to display ASCII characters can be readily changed simply by changing the pointer to the active font module.

In some embodiments, the data structure may further include a plurality of font modules each containing font data for displaying ASCII characters in a different font. In this embodiment, the computer program provides an indication to the display management module indicating the selected font for displaying the data string in the form of a pointer to the selected font module. The display management module accesses the font data module associated with the preselected font, locates the font data associated with the ASCII character in the font module and using the font data displays the ASCII character on the display terminal.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the data structure may also include a logo module stored in a computer-readable medium and associated with the display management module. In this embodiment, the logo module contains graphical data for display of at least one logo/graphical image. To display the logo, the display management module locates the graphical data associated with the logo in the logo module and using the logo data displays the logo on the display terminal. Further, if the

logo module includes more than one logo, the display management module may display either one, some, or all logos simultaneously. Also, using commands to the display management module, individual logos may be enabled or disabled.

5 In addition to displaying text and logos, the display management module may also be used to display progress bars. For example, in one embodiment, the display management module may display either a gradient progress bar or a filled progress bar as known in the art. The display management module may also display text boxes on the display terminal having a border defining an area on the display terminal. Further, in some embodiments, the display management module may define a scrollable area within the display of the display terminal. In this embodiment, the display management module first defines an area on the display terminal. The display management module displays data within the defined area of the display terminal and can scroll the data displayed within the defined area, while any data displayed on other portions of the display terminal remain at the same position.

15 In addition to providing systems, methods, and computer program products for displaying information from a computer program, the present invention also provides systems, methods, and computer program products for redirecting the output of the computer program to a different display. Specifically, the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention provide a method by which all text and graphical images on a host system may be redirected and displayed or represented at a remote location. Importantly, the display management module of the present invention provides commands and data to an external redirection handler module, that when properly interpreted and transmitted, allow for the display of information from the computer program to the remote display.

25 These and other advantages are realized by a system for redirecting the display of information from a computer program to a remote display terminal. The system includes a display management module stored on a computer-readable medium in communication with an output of the computer program and the remote display terminal for displaying data from the computer program on the remote display terminal. Associated with the display management module are data modules stored on a computer-readable medium containing text and graphical data used by the computer program to display information.

Further, connected to the display management module is an output redirection handler stored on a computer-readable medium. A data communication link is connected between the output redirection handler and the remote display terminal. In one embodiment, the system of the present invention further includes a remote display handler stored on a computer-readable medium in electrical connection with the data communication link and the remote display terminal.

In operation, the display management module receives commands to display text and graphical data from the computer program. Based on the commands, the display management module provides commands and text data from the data modules to the output redirection handler for displaying information on the remote display terminal.

As discussed, the data communication link provides a connection between the display management module and the remote display terminal. The data communication link may be a wide variety of data links. For example, in some embodiments, the data communication link may be either a parallel, serial, or network data link. As such, the output redirection handler of the present invention is designed such that it receives commands and data from the display management module and formats the commands and data for transmission across the data communication link depending on the type of communication link.

As detailed above, the display management module outputs commands and data to the output redirection handler for transmission to the remote display terminal. As time is required to transmit data from the output redirection handler to the remote display terminal, including time to convert the data for transmission across the data communication link, it may be advantageous to reduce the amount of data transmitted. For example, there are certain attributes associated with the display on the display terminal. For data updates to the display that do not alter the attributes associated with the display, it may be advantageous to forego resending the attribute with the data. As such, in one embodiment, the remote display handler stores a current attribute value representing an attribute of a current view displayed on the remote display terminal. Thus, subsequent commands to display data on the remote display terminal that do not alter the attribute of the display do not require transmittal of the attribute variable.

Similarly, in most cases, such as when displaying data strings, characters are displayed consecutively in a row. Since the characters are displayed consecutively in a row, it may be advantageous to store the current cursor position at the remote display terminal, such that consecutive characters sent for display do not require the sending of the cursor position for displaying the character. As such, in one embodiment, the remote display handler stores a value representing the current position of a cursor on the remote display terminal, such that subsequent commands to display data on the remote display terminal do not require data concerning cursor position.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a computer that provides the operating environment for the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention, according to one embodiment.

Figure 2 is a block diagram of an apparatus for managing the display of information output by a computer program on a display terminal according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a block diagram of the operations performed to manage the display of information output by a computer program on a display terminal according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a block diagram of the data structure of language data module that includes the data strings used by the computer program to display information on the display terminal according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 5 is a block diagram of the operations performed to encode the data strings used by a computer program to display information on a display terminal according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 6 is a block diagram of the operations performed to display information encoded in a language data module on a display terminal according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 7 is a block diagram of the data structure of main language data module header that includes string pointers to the location of various language data modules stored in memory according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 8 is a block diagram of the operations performed to determine the location of a language data module stored in a computer-readable medium using a country code associated with the language data module and a main language module header according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 10 is a block diagram of the operations performed to redirect the display of information output by a computer program on a remote display terminal according to one embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention now will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which preferred embodiments of the invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art. Like numbers refer to like elements throughout.

As discussed above and provided in more detail below, the present invention provides systems, methods, and computer program products for managing the display of information provided by a computer program on a display terminal. Importantly, the present invention provides a display management module that operates as an intermediate module between the computer program and the display terminal. The display management module interprets display commands from the computer program and controls the display terminal to display the desired information.

Associated with the display management module are a group of data modules that advantageously include the text and graphical data used by the computer program to display information on the display terminal. The text and graphical data are stored in these data modules, and therefore, the computer program does not have to contain the text and graphical data needed for displaying information on the display terminal. In the case

of text strings, data in the computer program can be replaced by identification numbers called tokens that allow the display management module to locate the text string in the data module. As such, to display information on the display terminal, the computer program outputs to the display management module a command to display a string and the token associated with the data string to be displayed. Based on the token, the display management module retrieves the data string from the data module and displays the data string on the display terminal.

The removal of the text and graphical data from the source code of the computer program provides several advantages. For instance, because the source code of the computer program does not contain the text and graphical data and the fonts associated with the data strings, the overall size of the source code is minimized. Further, as the text and graphical data originally located in the source code of the computer program is now stored in accessible modules, the text and graphical data can be more easily updated. Additionally, in some embodiments, the display management module may be associated with several different language data modules, where each language data module contains the data strings used by the computer program stored in a particular language. In this embodiment, the language with which the data strings are displayed may be changed by merely changing the language data module used by the display management module to display data on the display terminal.

The present invention also provides data structure, methods, and computer programs for storing text and graphical data used by a computer program to display information on a display terminal. Importantly, the present invention provides a data structure in which the data strings used by the computer program are stored and referenced by unique 16 bit identifiers called tokens. The data structure may include not only the 256 ASCII characters displayable with the standard font module, but also a different set of characters in the range 80-FF hexadecimal (referred to as non-standard extended ASCII), if a particular language requires them. The data structure may also include double byte characters (DBCS) that are used for graphical languages, which are two characters wide and are addressed using 16 bit character codes. As such, the data structure supports not only languages that use ASCII and non-standard extended ASCII characters, but also graphical languages, such as Kanji, that use DBCS characters.

Additionally, in some embodiments, the data structure also includes font areas for storing font data associated with extended ASCII and DBCS characters. In some embodiments, the data structure may include font data only for those extended ASCII characters that are not displayable using the extended ASCII characters in the font module. Further, the data structure may include font data for all possible DBCS characters. However, in some embodiments, the font areas may only include font data for the DBCS characters that are used in the data strings stored in the data string area. This embodiment is advantageous, as font data for displaying DBCS characters is relatively large. By storing only the font data associated with the DBCS characters to be displayed, data storage is minimized.

Further, the present invention provides systems, methods, and computer program products for redirecting the display of information from a computer program to a remote display terminal. Specifically, the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention provide a method by which all text on a host system may be redirected and displayed at a remote location and representations of graphical images on a host system may be redirected and displayed at a remote location. Importantly, the display management module of the present invention provides commands and data to an external redirection handler module, that when properly interpreted and transmitted, allow for the display of information from the computer program to the remote display.

As described below, the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention operate in conjunction with a computer program to display information on a display terminal. In typical embodiments, the systems, methods, and computer program products are implemented in a computing system, such as a personal computer or main frame computing system. However, it should be understood that the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention are not limited to any particular computer or apparatus. Rather, the systems, methods, and computer program products described herein may be modified to operate in various types of general purpose computing systems. Similarly, it may prove advantageous to construct a specialized computing system to perform the methods described herein.

Additionally, in the detailed discussion provided below, the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention are described in conjunction

with BIOS software program. It must be further understood that the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention are not limited to use with BIOS, but may instead be used with a wide variety of computer programs for management of the display of information on a display terminal.

5 As an example, Figure 1 is a typical computing environment in which the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention may be implemented. Specifically, the computing environment **10** includes a computer **12**. The computer includes a processing unit **14** and memory **16**, (including read only memory (ROM) **18** and random access memory (RAM) **20**), connected to the processing unit by a system bus **22**. The BIOS software **24** for the computer is stored in ROM. The computer also includes a local hard disk drive **26** connected to the system bus via a hard disk drive interface **28**, a floppy disk drive **30** connected to the system bus via a floppy disk drive interface **32**, and a CD-ROM drive **34** connected to the system bus via a CD-ROM interface **36**. Further, connected to the computer is a keyboard **38** connected through a keyboard controller interface **39** and a mouse **40** connected to the system bus via a serial port interface **42**. For displaying data to the user of the computer, a monitor **44** or other kind of display device is connected to the system bus via a video adapter **46**. Additionally, program modules, such as an operating system **48** and application programs **50a-50n**, are stored on the hard disk drive **26**. During operation, these programs may be temporarily stored in RAM.

20 As illustrated below, the present invention provides systems, methods, and computer program products for managing the display of information from a computer program to a display terminal. The system of the present invention includes a display management module and various data modules stored on a computer-readable medium that interacts with a computer program and display terminal. With reference to Figure 1, in instances in which the present invention is implemented to operate with BIOS, the display management module and data modules of the present invention are typically stored in ROM in a compressed form. When initialized, the display management module, as well as the various data modules, are extracted from ROM, decompressed, and stored in RAM. In operation, the system of the present invention receives commands from the BIOS program illustrated in Figure 1. Based on the commands from the computer

program, the system of the present invention displays text and graphical information on the display terminal.

With reference to Figure 2, a system **52** for managing the display of information from a computer program according to one embodiment of the present invention is shown. The system of this embodiment includes a display management module **54**, having an input entry point **56** for receiving and transmitting information from a computer program **58**, such as the BIOS program **24** illustrated in Figure 1. The computer program provides various commands to the display management module, such as “display string,” “display character,” “change cursor position,” “display graphical image,” etc. Connected to the display management module may be several different data modules. Specifically, the system of the present invention may include either one or several data modules, such as either one or several font modules **60**, either one or several logo modules **62**, a main language module header **64**, and either one or several language modules **66**. Additionally, the system **52** also includes output **68a** for connection to the local display terminal, such as the display terminal **44** shown in Figure 1, and output **68b** for connection to a remote display terminal. Importantly, the text and graphical data used by the display management module is located in the data modules.

With reference to Figure 3, in operation, to display information on the display terminal, the computer program sends a command to display information. (See step **100**). Based on the command, the display management module accesses the data module including the data to be displayed. (See step **102**). The display management module then controls the display terminal to display the information. (See step **104**).

Advantageously, because the text and graphical data used by the computer program to display information on the display terminal is located in the data modules, as opposed to the source code of the computer program, the size of the source code is minimized. Further, because the text and graphical data are located in readily accessible modules, the data is more easily updated or altered.

In addition to minimizing the overall size of the source code of the computer program and providing the text and graphical data for updating and alteration, the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention also provide for the display of both text and graphical data, display of data strings in different

languages, display of multiple logos, display of progress bars, scrollable text windows, etc.

As discussed, the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention also minimize the storage space needed to maintain the text and graphical data in a data module. For example, in one embodiment, the system of the present invention includes a language data module 66 that includes all of the data strings used by the computer program to display information on the display terminal. The data strings are stored in the language data module, and individual tokens are associated with the data strings, such that the data strings can be addressed by the display management module and displayed. In this embodiment, the language data module is an independent and self-contained binary. The language data module can contain ASCII characters in the range 00-07F hexadecimal for the display of alphanumeric characters, herein referred to as "standard ASCII characters." Additionally, the language module may include ASCII characters in the range 80-0FF hexadecimal that include line drawing characters and special characters such as a degree symbol (°) or a check mark (✓), herein referred to as "extended ASCII characters". Further, for some languages, such as the Asian language of Kanji, that are graphical in nature, the language data module includes DBCS characters.

The data structure of the language data module of the present invention provides several advantages. Specifically, each of the characters of each data string is encoded in the language data module, such that the display management module can readily determine whether the character is a standard ASCII character, extended ASCII character, or DBCS character. Additionally, the language data module includes an extended ASCII font area for storing font data for extended ASCII characters that cannot be displayed using the standard font module. Further, the language data module includes a DBCS font area for storing font data for DBCS characters if they are present in the data strings stored in the language data module. Further, in one embodiment of the present invention, the language font data module only includes font data associated with the DBCS characters that appear in the data strings stored in the language data module, thereby minimizing data storage.

A description of the data structure of a typical language data module according to the present invention is provided below. With reference to Figure 4, in one embodiment, the language data module 66 of the present invention includes a header 70, a string pointer table 72, a string data area 74, an extended ASCII font data area 76, (if the language is not displayable with extended ASCII characters from the standard font module), and a DBCS font data area 78, (if the language requires DBCS fonts).

Tables 1 and 2 respectively illustrate the contents of the header 70 and string pointer table 72 for a typical language data module. Specifically, the header 70 includes a signature to identify the module and language identification to identify the language associated with the module. Importantly, the header also includes flags that indicate whether the language associated with the language data module includes its own set of extended ASCII characters and DBCS characters. Further the header includes offsets addressing the location of the string pointer table, extended font data area, and DBCS font data area.

Table 1

Header

Offset	Size	Definition
0000h	DWORD	'LANG' signature to identify presence of module
0004h	WORD	Language ID
0006h	DWORD	Flags Bit 0: ExtendedASCIIFlag 0 = Language uses standard extended ASCII 1 = Language uses different extended ASCII Bit 1: DBCSFlag 0 = Language does not use DBCS characters 1 = Language uses DBCS characters Bit 2: Default language identifier 0 = this language is not used as default 1 = this language is the default All other bits reserved
0008h	DWORD	32 bit offset to string pointer table (from offset 0000h of the module)
000ch	DWORD	32 bit offset to extended font data (from offset 0000h of the module) Value is irrelevant if the ExtendedASCIIFlag is 0
0010h	DWORD	32 bit offset to DBCS font data (from offset 0000h of the module)
0014h	DWORD	32 bit offset to first non-runtime string in string data area (from start of string pointer table)

With reference to Table 2, the string pointer table includes a list of pointers that identify where each data string is located in memory.

Table 2

String Pointer Table

Offset	Size	Definition
0000h	WORD	String 0000 pointer (from start of String Pointer Table)
0002h	WORD	String 0001 pointer (from start of String Pointer Table)
(n-1)x2	WORD	String n pointer

As discussed above, the language data module includes all of the data strings that are displayed by the computer program. The data strings stored in the language data module may consist of normal ASCII characters (00-7F hexadecimal), extended ASCII characters (80-FF hexadecimal), or 16 bit DBCS characters (0000-FFFF hexadecimal). Importantly, in choosing an encoding scheme for encoding the characters of the data string, the encoding must be uniform for all language data modules regardless of the different types of characters, (i.e., ASCII, extended ASCII, and DBCS), used to display the language. For example, the same encoding scheme should be used for encoding the characters in a language data module that displays data strings in English as for the characters of a language data module that displays data strings in Kanji, such that the display management module can easily retrieve the data strings, decode, and display them regardless of which language is selected.

In order for the display management module to process data strings for display in the display terminal, the data strings must be encoded in a manner that allows the display management module to differentiate between ASCII character codes and DBCS character codes.

In light of this, in one embodiment of the present invention, the individual characters of the each data string are encoded in the language data module such that standard ASCII characters and most of the extended ASCII characters are represented by their normal one-byte codes, while the remaining extended ASCII characters and all DBCS characters are encoded as two bytes. To further clarify, in order to differentiate between single byte ASCII codes and double byte DBCS codes, a one-byte escape code

in the range E0-FF, and a character code of E1 hexadecimal or greater indicates that the current byte and next byte represent an encoded 16-bit value for a DBCS character.

In addition to including the text and graphical data used by the computer program to display information on the display terminal, the system of the present invention also includes font data for displaying the characters on the display terminal. As such, the computer program is not required to store the font data used to display the text and graphical data. As illustrated in Figure 2, the system of the present invention includes a font data module 60. The font data module includes font data for the standard ASCII and extended ASCII characters. In addition to removing the font data from the computer program, the separation of the font data into an independent module is advantageous for several reasons. First, by maintaining the font data in a separate module, the font with which ASCII characters are displayed may be readily changed. This allows the text displayed on the display terminal to be customized for the user. Further, the system may include a plurality of font modules each having font data for displaying characters in a different font, thereby allowing the computer program to change the font used for displaying the data at will.

Secondly, and important to the data structure of the language data module, is that by maintaining the font data in a separate module, the language data module is not required to store the font data for standard ASCII characters. As such, if there is more than one language data module, such as in the case where there are different language modules for different languages, the font data for standard ASCII characters is located in one storage location, instead of each language data module. Thus, in this embodiment, the language data module need only include font data for the extended ASCII characters not already represented in the standard font data module and font data for DBCS characters.

Specifically, with reference to Figure 4, in one embodiment, the language data module 66 of the present invention includes an extended ASCII font data area 76, (if the language contains extended ASCII characters not supported by the standard font data module), and a DBCS font data area 78, (if the language requires DBCS fonts), for storing font data for extended ASCII and DBCS characters.

With regard to maintaining font data for extended ASCII and DBCS characters, the system of the present invention may also minimize storage of the font data for DBCS characters. As discussed previously, there are a large number of possible DBCS characters, and each DBCS character has an associated large amount of font data. In light of this, it is typically advantageous to store only the font data associated with the DBCS characters that appear in the data strings in the language data module. For example, as discussed above, one encoding method of the present invention encodes the DBCS characters as two-byte character codes beginning with E100 hexadecimal in the string data area. In this encoding scheme, as each DBCS character is sequentially encoded, the font data associated with each DBCS character is sequentially stored in the DBCS font data area corresponding to the two-byte encoded value stored in the data string area. As such, when the DBCS character is to be displayed, the code is extracted from the data string area and E100 is subtracted from the encoded value. The remainder of this subtraction is then multiplied by the font pixel size of a DBCS character. The multiplied value, in turn, indicates the location offset of the DBCS font data for the character in the DBCS font data area.

With reference to Figure 5, a method for encoding data strings into a data language module in accordance with the above-discussed embodiment is illustrated. Specifically, it is initially determined what different data strings are used by the computer program to display information to the user. (See step 200). These strings are typically stored in a large database by the developer of the program consisting of all available translations for the particular string. For example, BIOS may include a string search utility that searches for all strings in the BIOS object (OBJ) files.

After all the strings have been determined, a unique 16 bit identification number called a token is associated with each unique string. (See step 202). The string numbers used in the source OBJ files are resolved into token numbers by creating a source file equating the string numbers to their assigned tokens, compiling the source file, and linking the source file with all other OBJ files. (See step 204). Next, each string is extracted from the database in the desired language associated with the language module. (See step 206).

The escape code informs the display management module that the character following the escape code is a single byte extended ASCII character. For example, if a data string contains a degree symbol (ASCII code 0F8 hexadecimal), the character will be encoded in the string data area as E0F8 hexadecimal. As such, the character is encoded from a one-byte into a two-byte character with the addition of the escape code.

If the language associated with the language module uses DBCS characters, (see step 222), the character is checked to see if it is a DBCS character. If so, the system determines whether this DBCS code has been previously encountered in a data string and tokenized. (See step 224). If this particular DBCS code has not been previously used, the DBCS character code is assigned to the next available 16 bit code and encoded into the string data area. (See step 226). For example, if the current character is the first DBCS character, then it is encoded as E100 hexadecimal. Similarly, if the current character is the third unique DBCS character to be encoded, it will be encoded as E102 hexadecimal. However, if this DBCS code has been previously encountered and encoded, the DBCS value is replaced with its previously assigned code value and encoded in the string data area, and the system advances to the next position in source string. (See step 228).

The encoding is continued until all characters of the string have been encoded. This is determined by checking whether the current character in the source string is null, as null indicates the end of the data string. (See step 230). If the character in the source string is null, a 0 is placed at the end of the encoded string to allow the display management module to know that the end of the string has been reached when being displayed. (See step 232). Further, the process is continued until all strings have been encoded into the language module. (See step 234 and 236). After all data strings have been encoded, and if the language requires it, (i.e., if ExtendedASCIIFlag =1), the non-standard extended ASCII font data for the language is stored in the extended ASCII font data area of the language module. (See step 238). Or, if the language includes DBCS characters, (i.e., if DBCSFlag =1), the DBCS font table for the DBCS characters found in the data strings are stored in the DBCS font data area of the language module and the building of the language module is completed. (See steps 240 and 242). As discussed above, the font data associated with each DBCS character is sequentially stored in the

DBCS font data area corresponding the two-byte encoded value stored in the data string area and the size of the font data for a DBCS character.

As illustrated in Figure 2, the present invention provides a system for managing the information displayed by a computer program. With reference to Figure 6, a method for displaying a data string requested by a computer program using a language data module that has been created using the encoding scheme discussed above is illustrated. Specifically, as the computer program operates, it will encounter source code for which the computer program is to display a data string to a display terminal. The source code of this embodiment does not include the data string, but instead includes identification number or token. The computer program outputs the token and a string display command to the input **56** of the display management module **54**. (See step **300**). The display management module uses an internal pointer to the current active language module **66** to access the language module header **70**. (See step **302**). From the header, the display management module locates the pointer indicating the storage address of the string pointer table **72**. (See step **304**). Based on the token from the computer program, the display management module locates the pointer from the string pointer table addressing the storage location of the string associated with the token. (See step **306**).

After the string is located, the display management module processes the string character by character and displays each character until a null character is reached, indicating the end of the string. (See steps **308** and **310**). For each character, the display management module checks to see if the character is a normal ASCII character (00 to 7F hexadecimal, (see step **312**),) or an extended ASCII character having an ASCII code less than the escape code, (i.e., 80-DF hexadecimal, (see step **316**)), or an extended ASCII character having a value equal to or greater than the escape code, (i.e., E0-FF hexadecimal), (see step **314**), or a 16 bit DBCS character (E100-FFFF hexadecimal). (See step **316**).

If the character is a normal ASCII character, (i.e., less than 80 hexadecimal), the display management module uses the character code stored in the data string and the standard ASCII font module to display the character and increments to the next character. (See steps **318** and **320**).

If the character is an extended ASCII character having an ASCII code value less than the escape code, (i.e., greater than 80, and less than E0), (see step **316**), the display management module first determines whether language module includes nonstandard extended ASCII characters based on whether flag ExtendedASCIIFlag is set to 1 in the language module header, (see Table 3). (See step **324**). If the language module uses its own set of extended ASCII characters, the display management module uses the character code stored in the data string to look up and use the extended ASCII information stored in the extended ASCII font data area **76** to display the character. (See step **326**). If the language module does not require a special set of extended ASCII characters, the display management module uses the character code and standard font table to display the character. (See step **318**).

If the character is equal to the escape code, (i.e., in this case = E0 hexadecimal), it will consist of two bytes; one byte equaling the escape code E0 hexadecimal and a second byte including the character. If the first byte equals the escape code, (see step **316**), the display management module advances to the next byte that includes the character value. (See step **322**). The display management module next determines whether the language module includes nonstandard extended ASCII characters based on whether flag ExtendedASCIIFlag is set to 1 in the language module header, (see Table 3). (See step **324**). If the language module uses its own set of extended ASCII characters, the display management module uses the character code stored in the data string to look up and use the extended ASCII information stored in the extended ASCII font data area **76** to display the character. (See step **326**). If the language module does not require a special set of extended ASCII characters, the display management module uses the character code and standard font table to display the character. (See step **318**).

If the character is in the range of E1-FF hexadecimal, it signals the start of a DBCS character (E100-FFFF hexadecimal), (see step **316**), and will consist of two bytes that form a 16-bit character code. (See step **328**). To locate the font data for a particular DBCS character, the display management module subtracts E100 hexadecimal from the 16-bit character code. Additionally, the display management module multiplies the subtracted value by the font pixel size in bytes of a double byte character. The multiplied value corresponds to the location offset of the DBCS font information stored in the

DBCS font data area **78** for the DBCS character. (See step **330**). The process is continued until all characters in the data string have been displayed.

In addition to minimizing storage space and making the text and graphic data used by the computer program accessible for updating or alteration, the present invention also provides a system for displaying text in different languages. In this embodiment, the system includes a plurality of language data modules, each containing the language data displayed by the computer program translated into a different language. For each language data module, the corresponding data strings are associated with the same token number. In this embodiment, the language in which the data string associated with the token is displayed is controlled by choosing which language data module to extract the data string associated with the token.

Specifically, with reference to Figure 2, in this embodiment of the present invention, the system includes a plurality of language data modules **66**, where each module includes the data strings stored in a selected language and a main language module header **64** to assist in locating which language to display the information from the computer program. Figure 7 illustrates the main language module header. Specifically, the main language module header **64** serves to provide the display management module **54** with pointers to each of the different language modules that may be present. As illustrated, the main language module header **64** includes a header **80** and a language module pointer table **82**. The header **80** includes information related to a signature identifying the header as the main language module header, the identification of the default language, (such as English), pointer to the location of the language module pointer table **82** in memory, and the total number of languages present. The header is illustrated below in Table 3 according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Table 3

Header

Offset	Size	Definition
0000h	DWORD	signature to identify presence of header
0004h	WORD	2 letter country code of default language module
0006h	WORD	16 bit offset to language module pointer table (from offset 0000h of the main header)
0008h	WORD	number of languages present

because the font module is a separate module from the source code of the computer program, the display management module could be configured to use different font modules for different operations of the computer program. For example, in the case of BIOS, one font could be used for the display of text during POST (power on self-test) and a separate module for the display of text during the BIOS setup program.

In addition to the display of characters in different languages and fonts, the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention may also be used for other display functions such as to display logos, cursor positioning, text block functions, progress bar display, and scrolling. For example, with reference to Figure 2, the system **52** of the present invention includes a logo module **62**, which may contain one or many logos each with their own color palette. In a typical embodiment, each logo uses 16 of the available 256 colors, and the logos may have a transparent background for superimposing on other images. Each logo includes a header containing a pointer to the logo data and a number representing the palette set to use with the logo and any display attributes. Since each logo can use a maximum of 16 colors, there are 15 available blocks of 16 colors in the palette registers for the logo to use, (the first 16 colors is typically reserved for screen text). The structure of the logo module allows multiple logos to be displayed simultaneously, such that the colors do not corrupt the colors of each of the other logos.

With reference to Figure 3, similar to the display of text data, in this embodiment of the present invention, to display a logo, the computer program outputs a command to display a logo and a pointer to the start of the logo module. (See step **100**). Based on the command, the display management module accesses the logo module and retrieves the logo data. (See step **102**). The display management module then using the data stored in the logo module and the associated color palette displays the logo on the display terminal. (See step **104**).

Advantageously, in some embodiments, the logo module includes a plurality of logos all stored with their own color palette. In this embodiment, the display management module may display either one of the logos or multiple logos on the display terminal at the same time.

computer program products of the present invention provides a method by which all text on a host system may be redirected and displayed at a remote location and representations of graphical images on a host system may be redirected and displayed at a remote location.. Importantly, the display management module of the present invention provides
5 commands and data to an external output redirection handler module, that when properly interpreted and transmitted, allow for the transmission of display information from the computer program to the remote display.

With reference to Figure 9, a system **84** according to one embodiment of the present invention for redirecting the display of information from a computer program is
10 illustrated. The system includes a display management module **54**, having an entry point input **56** for receiving and transmitting information from a computer program. The system also includes an output redirection handler **86** stored in computer-readable medium and connected to the display management module. Located remote from the system is a target system **88** having a remote display terminal **90** and a remote display
15 handler **92** stored in a computer-readable medium. The system and target system are connected by a data communication link **94** allowing the transmission of data, such as a serial, parallel, or network link.

Importantly, the display management module **54** of this embodiment provides commands to the output redirection handler to describe what is being drawn on the
20 screen. As illustrated, the data communication link between the system and target system can take many forms. Further, the data may be transmitted in several different forms, such as network packets, dumb-terminal protocols, etc. In order to make the display management module generic and independent of the form of communication, the display management module, according to one embodiment of the present invention, does not
25 include the code for the hardware-related functions for transmitting the display data across the communication link. Instead, the transmission of the data across the communication link is performed by the output redirection handler module, which is designed to transmit the data across the communication link. This, in turn, allows the display management module to remain generic for all remote display applications, such
30 that the display module does not have to be modified. By placing the responsibility for

With reference to Figure 9, the command/data is transmitted across the communication link to a remote display handler **92** connected to the remote display terminal **90**. The remote display handler is either a specifically written module to properly receive and display the command/data from the output redirection handler or is an existing module or program, (such as a terminal emulator), if the data has been encoded in a suitable format by the output redirection handler to operate with the remote display handler.

25 The display management module provides flexibility for changes in the remote terminal. If the requirements for either the remote terminal or communication link are altered, the output redirection handler and remote display handler can be altered to meet these new needs, while the display management module will remain the same.

As discussed previously, the systems, methods, and computer program products
30 of the present invention use a command/data set that has been chosen and defined to
provide remote display that accurately reflects the display of the information on the local

display associated with the system and minimizes the amount of data transmitted to the target system, thereby optimizing the speed of the display. In order to display accurately the output from the computer program, the output redirection handler must accurately interpret the display management module command set as received from the display management module. Then, after the output redirection handler has properly interpreted the commands from the display management module, the output redirection handler may transmit data and/or commands to the remote display handler in any desired manner.

If on the other hand, the output redirection handler merely transmits the command/data from the display management module to the remote display handler without alteration, then the remote display handler should be designed to: 1) receive data via the required transmission method and 2) interpret the commands and the data to output the information to the remote display terminal. As such, the remote display handler associated with the target system should be programmed to perform the necessary tasks as requested by the command and data from the display management module.

As detailed above, the display management module outputs commands and data to the output redirection handler for display on the remote display terminal. As time is required to transmit data from the output redirection handler to the remote display terminal, including time to convert the data for transmission across the data communication link, it may be advantageous to reduce the amount of data transmitted.

For example, there are certain attributes associated with the display on the display terminal. For data updates to the display that do not alter the attributes associated with the display, it may be advantageous to forego resending the attribute with the data. As such, in one embodiment, the remote display handler stores a current attribute value representing the color attribute of the characters being displayed on the remote display terminal. Thus, subsequent commands to display data on the remote display terminal that do not alter the attribute of the display do not require transmittal of the attribute variable.

Similarly, in some instances, characters are displayed consecutively in a row on the remote display terminal. Since the characters are displayed consecutively, it may be advantageous to store the current cursor position at the remote display terminal, such that consecutive characters sent for display do not require the sending of the cursor position for displaying the character. As such, in one embodiment, the remote display handler

stores a value representing the current position of a cursor on the remote display terminal such that subsequent commands to display data on the remote display terminal do not require data concerning cursor position.

In addition to providing systems and methods, the present invention also provides
5 computer program products for managing the display of information from a computer
program on a display terminal. Further, the present invention provides computer program
products for creating a language module to store data strings used by a display
management module to display information on a display terminal and computer program
products for redirecting the display of information from a computer program to a remote
10 display terminal. With reference to Figure 2, the computer readable storage medium may
be part of the ROM **22** or RAM **20**, and the processor **14** of the present invention may
implement the computer readable program code means as discussed in the various
embodiments above.

In one embodiment, the present invention provides computer program products
15 for managing the display of information from a computer program on a display terminal.
In this embodiment of the present invention, the computer-readable medium includes first
computer instruction means for providing on a computer-readable medium data modules
containing text and graphical data used by the computer program to display information
on the display terminal. In this embodiment, tokens are associated with the data strings
20 located in the data modules. The computer-readable medium also includes second
computer instruction means for receiving a string display command and a token output by
the computer program to display data associated with the token on the display terminal.
Further, the computer-readable medium includes a third computer instruction means for
retrieving the data associated with the token from the data modules, and fourth computer
25 instruction mean for displaying the data associated with the tokens on the display
terminal. Importantly, in this embodiment, storage of the text and graphical data in the
data modules eliminates the requirement that the text and graphical data for displaying
information on the display terminal be contained in the computer program.

In another embodiment, the present invention provides computer program
30 products for creating a language module to store data strings used by a display
management module to display information on a display terminal. In this embodiment of

the present invention, the computer-readable medium includes first computer instruction means for analyzing each character of each data string, where each character is a character selected from the group consisting of standard ASCII, extended ASCII, and double byte character. The computer-readable medium of the present invention further includes second computer instruction means for encoding characters in the data strings that are extended ASCII and double byte characters and third computer instruction means for creating a string data area in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium. Further, the computer-readable medium further includes fourth computer instruction means for storing the data strings in the string data area. In this embodiment, the fourth computer instruction means stores characters that are standard ASCII characters and extended ASCII characters having ASCII codes less than E0 hexadecimal in the string data area by their ASCII representations. Further, the fourth computer instruction means stores extended ASCII characters that are greater than or equal to E0 hexadecimal as a two-byte code with the ASCII character preceded by the escape code E0 hexadecimal and DBCS characters in the string data area by two-byte codes sequentially encoded from E100 to FFFF hexadecimal.

In still another embodiment, the present invention provides computer program products for redirecting the display of information from a computer program to a remote display terminal. In this embodiment, the computer program product includes a computer-readable medium having first computer instruction means for providing on a computer-readable medium data modules containing text and graphical data used by the computer program to display information on the remote display terminal. The computer-readable medium further includes second computer instruction means for receiving a command to display text and graphical data from the computer program and third computer instruction means for retrieving data associated with the command from the data modules. To display the information on a remote display terminal, the computer-readable medium further includes fourth computer instruction means for outputting commands and text and graphical data from the data modules for display and fifth computer instruction means for redirecting the commands and text and graphical data representations to the remote display terminal, where a sixth computer instruction means displays the text and graphical data representations on the remote display terminal.

In this regard, Figures 2-10 are block diagrams, flowcharts and control flow illustrations of methods, systems and program products according to the invention. It will be understood that each block or step of the block diagram, flowchart and control flow illustrations, and combinations of blocks in the block diagram, flowchart and control flow illustrations, can be implemented by computer program instructions. These computer program instructions may be loaded onto a computer or other programmable apparatus to produce a machine, such that the instructions which execute on the computer or other programmable apparatus create means for implementing the functions specified in the block diagram, flowchart or control flow block(s) or step(s). These computer program instructions may also be stored in a computer-readable memory that can direct a computer or other programmable apparatus to function in a particular manner, such that the instructions stored in the computer-readable memory produce an article of manufacture including instruction means which implement the function specified in the block diagram, flowchart or control flow block(s) or step(s). The computer program instructions may also be loaded onto a computer or other programmable apparatus to cause a series of operational steps to be performed on the computer or other programmable apparatus to produce a computer implemented process such that the instructions which execute on the computer or other programmable apparatus provide steps for implementing the functions specified in the block diagram, flowchart or control flow block(s) or step(s).

Accordingly, blocks or steps of the block diagram, flowchart or control flow illustrations support combinations of means for performing the specified functions, combinations of steps for performing the specified functions and program instruction means for performing the specified functions. It will also be understood that each block or step of the block diagram, flowchart or control flow illustrations, and combinations of blocks or steps in the block diagram, flowchart or control flow illustrations, can be implemented by special purpose hardware-based computer systems which perform the specified functions or steps, or combinations of special purpose hardware and computer instructions.

Many modifications and other embodiments of the invention will come to mind to one skilled in the art to which this invention pertains having the benefit of the teachings

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A computer-readable medium having stored therein a data structure in the form of a language module for storing data strings used by a display management module to display information on a display terminal, wherein said data structure comprises a string data area stored in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium, wherein said string data area includes a plurality of data strings to be displayed by the display management module, wherein each character of each data string is a character selected from the group consisting of standard ASCII, extended ASCII, and double byte characters, and wherein characters in a data string that are standard ASCII and extended ASCII characters having ASCII codes less than a selected escape code are stored by their ASCII representations in said string data area, while extended ASCII characters and standard ASCII characters, if any, having ASCII codes at least as great as the selected escape code and ASCII characters that identify double byte characters are encoded and the encoded values are stored in said string data area.

2. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 1, wherein said data structure further comprises a font module containing font data for displaying 256 standard and extended ASCII characters.

3. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 2, wherein said data structure further comprises an extended ASCII font data area stored in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium for storing font data related to extended ASCII characters that are not displayable with the extended ASCII character data stored in said font module.

4. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 2, wherein said data structure further comprises a double byte character font data area stored in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium for storing font data related to double byte characters.

5. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 4, wherein said double byte character font data area includes only font data for the double byte characters present in

data strings to be displayed by the display management module to thereby minimize data storage space.

6. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 4, wherein double byte characters are sequentially encoded with 16 bit values and the code values representing the double byte characters are stored in said string data area, and wherein font data associated with the double byte characters is stored in the double byte character font data area.

7. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 2, wherein extended ASCII characters and standard ASCII characters, if any, having ASCII codes at least as great as the selected escape code are encoded in the string data area as 16 bit codes, wherein each 16 bit code comprises an escape code proceeded by the ASCII code of the standard ASCII and extended ASCII character.

8. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 6, wherein double byte characters are sequentially encoded into 16 bit codes, wherein the first double byte character is represented by a 16 bit code having a first byte that is one value greater than the escape code and a second byte equal to zero and the remaining unique double byte characters are encoded with sequential 16 bit code values.

9. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 8, wherein the selected escape code is E0 hexadecimal, wherein double byte characters are sequentially encoded and stored in said string data area such that the first double byte character is represented by the 16 bit code value E100 in hexadecimal and the remaining unique double byte characters are encoded with sequential 16 bit values from E101 to FFFF hexadecimal, and wherein the extended ASCII characters having ASCII codes at least as great as the selected escape code are encoded in said string data area as 16 bit codes with the selected escape code as the first byte and the ASCII code for the extended ASCII character as the second byte.

10. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 1, wherein said string data area includes data strings stored in a particular language, and wherein said data structure

further comprises a header associated with said data string area that is stored in a range of memory addresses, wherein said header indicates the language with which the data strings are stored in said string data area.

11. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 2, wherein said data
5 structure further comprises a header having data stored therein indicating whether said data structure further includes an extended ASCII font data area stored in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium for storing font data related to extended ASCII characters that are not displayable with the extended ASCII character font data stored in said font module.

10 12. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 11, wherein said header further indicates whether said data structure comprises a double byte character font data area stored in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium for storing font data related to characters that are double byte characters.

13. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 1, wherein said data
15 structure further comprises a string pointer table stored in a range of memory addresses including pointers indicating the location of data strings in said string data area.

14. A method for creating a data structure in a computer-readable medium in the form of a language module for storing data strings used by a display management module to display information on a display terminal, wherein said method comprises the steps of:
20 creating a string data area in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium for storing each of the data strings;

analyzing each character of each data string, wherein each character is a character selected from the group consisting of standard ASCII, extended ASCII, and double byte characters;

25 encoding extended ASCII characters and standard ASCII characters, if any, having ASCII values at least as great as a selected escape code and ASCII characters that identify double byte characters with encoded values;

storing each data string in the string data area, wherein for each data string said storing step stores standard ASCII characters and extended ASCII characters having

ASCII codes less than the selected escape code by their ASCII representations and stores extended ASCII characters and standard ASCII characters, if any, having ASCII values greater than or equal to the selected escape code and ASCII characters that identify double byte characters by their encoded values as determined in said encoding step.

5 15. A method according to Claim 14, wherein said creating step further creates a font module in the data structure containing font data for displaying 256 standard and extended ASCII characters.

16. A method according to Claim 15, wherein said creating step further comprises creating an extended ASCII font data area in a range of memory addresses in
10 the computer-readable medium, wherein the extended ASCII font data area includes font data related to extended ASCII characters that are not displayable with the extended ASCII character font data stored in the font module.

17. A method according to Claim 15, wherein said creating step further comprises creating a double byte character font data area in a range of memory addresses
15 in the computer-readable medium, wherein the double byte character font data area includes font data related to characters that are double byte characters.

18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein said storing step only stores font data in the double byte character font data area for the double byte characters present in the data strings to be displayed by the display management module instead of all possible
20 double byte characters to thereby minimize data storage space.

19. A method according to Claim 17, wherein said encoding step sequentially encodes double byte characters with 16 bit codes, wherein said storing step stores the code values representing the double byte characters in the string data area, and wherein said storing step further stores font data associated with the double byte characters in the
25 double byte character font data area.

20. A method according to Claim 15, wherein said encoding step encodes extended ASCII characters and standard ASCII characters, if any, having ASCII codes at least as great as the selected escape code with 16 bit codes, wherein each 16 bit code

comprises an escape code proceeded by the ASCII code of the extended ASCII or standard ASCII character..

21. A method according to Claim 19, wherein said encoding step sequentially encodes double byte characters into 16 bit codes, wherein the first double byte character
5 is represented by a 16 bit code having a first byte that is one value greater than the escape code and a second byte equal to zero and the remaining unique double byte characters are encoded with sequential 16 bit code values.

22. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the escape code is E0 hexadecimal, wherein said encoding step sequentially encodes double byte characters such that the first
10 double byte character is represented by the 16 bit encoded value E100 hexadecimal and the remaining unique double byte characters are encoded with sequential 16 bit values from E101 to FFFF hexadecimal, and wherein said encoding step encodes extended ASCII characters having ASCII codes at least as great as the selected escape code as 16
15 bit codes with the selected escape code as the first byte and the ASCII code for the extended ASCII character as the second byte.

23. A method according to Claim 15, wherein the string data area includes data strings stored in a particular language, and wherein said creating step further comprises creating a header associated with the data string area in a range of memory addresses for indicating the language in which the data strings are stored in the string data area.

24. A method according to Claim 23, wherein said storing step stores in the
20 header an indication as to whether the data structure further includes an extended ASCII font data area stored in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium for storing font data related to extended ASCII characters that are not displayable with the extended ASCII character font data stored in the font module.

25. A method according to Claim 23, wherein said storing step stores in the
25 header an indication as to whether the data structure further comprises a double byte character font data area stored in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium for storing font data related to characters that are double byte characters.

26. A method according to Claim 14, wherein said creating step further creates a string pointer table in a range of memory addresses, wherein the string pointer table includes pointers indicating the location of data strings in the string data area.

27. A computer program product for creating a data structure in the form of a language module for storing data strings used by a display management module to display information on a display terminal, wherein the computer program product comprises:

a computer-readable storage medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium, said computer-readable program code means comprising:

first computer instruction means for creating a string data area in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium for storing each of the data strings;

second computer instruction means for analyzing each character of each data string, wherein each character is a character selected from the group consisting of standard ASCII, extended ASCII, and double byte characters;

third computer instruction means for encoding extended ASCII characters and standard ASCII characters, if any, having ASCII values at least as great as the selected escape code and ASCII characters that identify double byte characters with encoded values;

fourth computer instruction means for storing each data string in the string data area, wherein for each data string said fourth computer instruction means stores standard ASCII characters and extended ASCII characters having ASCII codes less than the selected escape code by their ASCII representations and stores extended ASCII characters and standard ASCII, if any, having ASCII values at least as great as the selected escape code and ASCII characters double byte characters by their encoded values as determined in said third computer instruction means.

28. A computer program product according to Claim 28, wherein said first computer instruction means creates a font module in the data structure containing font data for displaying 256 standard and extended ASCII characters.

29. A computer program product according to Claim 28, wherein said first computer instruction means further comprises creating an extended ASCII font data area in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium, wherein the extended ASCII font data area includes font data related to extended ASCII characters that are not displayable with the extended ASCII character font data stored in the font module.

30. A computer program product according to Claim 28, wherein said first computer instruction means further comprises creating a double byte character font data area in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium, wherein the double byte character font data area includes font data related to characters that are double byte characters.

31. A computer program product according to Claim 30, wherein said fourth computer instruction means only stores font data in the double byte character font data area for the double byte characters present in the data strings to be displayed by the display management module instead of all possible double byte characters to thereby minimize data storage space.

32. A computer program product according to Claim 30, wherein said third computer instruction means sequentially encodes double byte characters with 16 bit codes, wherein said fourth computer instruction means stores the code values representing the double byte characters in the string data area, and wherein said fourth computer instruction means stores font data associated with the double byte characters in the double byte character font data area.

33. A computer program product according to Claim 28, wherein said third computer instruction means encodes extended ASCII characters and standard ASCII characters, if any, having ASCII codes at least as great as the selected escape code with 16 bit codes, wherein each 16 bit code comprises an escape code proceeded by the ASCII code of the extended ASCII or standard ASCII character.

34. A computer program product according to Claim 32, wherein said third computer instruction means sequentially encodes double byte characters into 16 bit

codes, wherein the first double byte character is represented by a 16 bit code having a first byte that is one value greater than the escape code and a second byte equal to zero and the remaining unique double byte characters are encoded with sequential 16 bit code values.

5 35. A computer program product according to Claim 34, wherein the escape code is E0 hexadecimal, wherein said third computer instruction means sequentially encodes double byte characters such that the first double byte character is represented by the 16 bit encoded value E100 hexadecimal and the remaining unique double byte characters are encoded with sequential 16 bit values from E101 to FFFF hexadecimal, and wherein said
10 third computer instruction means encodes extended ASCII characters having ASCII codes at least as great as the selected escape code as a 16 bit value having the selected escape code as the first byte and the code for the extended ASCII character as the second byte.

15 36. A computer program product according to Claim 27, wherein the string data area includes data strings stored in a particular language, and wherein said first computer instruction means further comprises creating a header associated with the data string area in a range of memory addresses for indicating the language in which the data strings are stored in the string data area.

20 37. A computer program product according to Claim 36, wherein said fourth computer instruction means stores in the header an indication as to whether the data structure further includes an extended ASCII font data area stored in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium for storing font data related to extended ASCII characters that are not displayable with the extended ASCII character font data stored in the font module.

25 38. A computer program product according to Claim 36, wherein said fourth computer instruction means stores in the header an indication as to whether the data structure further comprises a double byte character font data area stored in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium for storing font data related to characters that are double byte characters.

39. A computer program product according to Claim 27, wherein said first computer instruction means further creates a string pointer table in a range of memory addresses, wherein the string pointer table includes pointers indicating the location of data strings in the string data area.

**DATA STRUCTURE, METHODS, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCTS
FOR STORING TEXT DATA STRINGS USED TO DISPLAY TEXT
INFORMATION ON A DISPLAY TERMINAL**

5

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides data structure, methods, and computer programs for storing text data used by a computer program to display information on a display terminal. Importantly, the present invention provides a data structure in which the data strings traditionally stored in the computer program are removed from the computer program and stored in the data structure. The data strings are associated with individual 16 bit identification numbers, called tokens, which are used to indicate the location of the data strings in the data structure. In light of this, the data strings are removed from the source code of the computer program and replaced with tokens that address the data strings in the data structure. As such, to display a data string, the computer program outputs a token associated with the data string and the command to display it to the display management module, and the data string is located in the data structure and displayed on the display terminal. The data structure may include not only ASCII characters, but also extended ASCII characters different from those used in the standard ASCII table and a double byte characters set (DBCS). As such, the data structure supports not only languages that use ASCII and extended ASCII characters, but also graphical languages that use DBCS characters. The data structure also includes font areas for storing font data associated with extended ASCII characters not displayable with the standard ASCII font set in the font module and DBCS characters. In one embodiment, the font area includes only font data for the DBCS characters that are used in the data strings stored in the data structure, thereby minimizing data storage.

CLT01/4435518v5

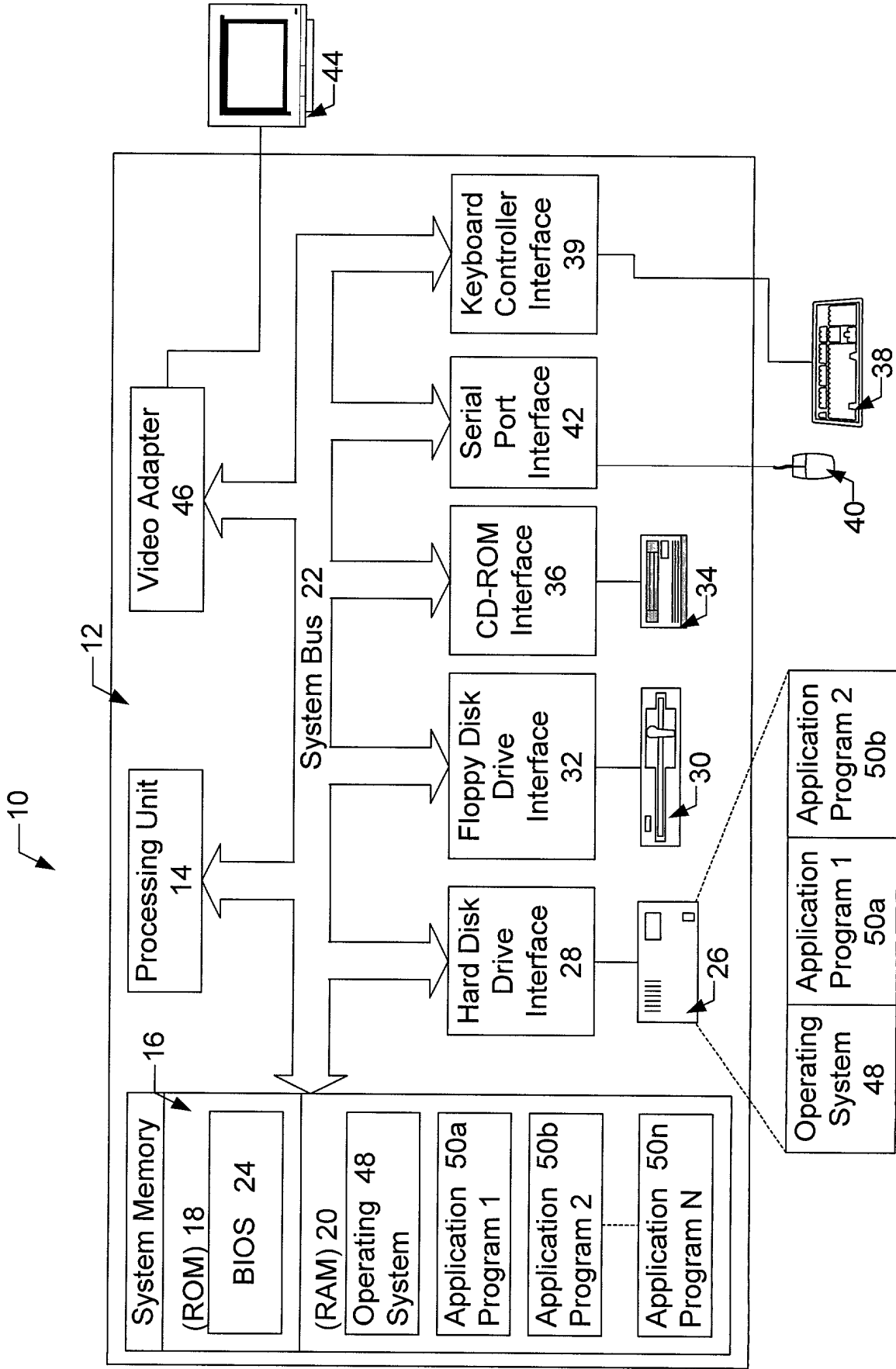


Figure 1

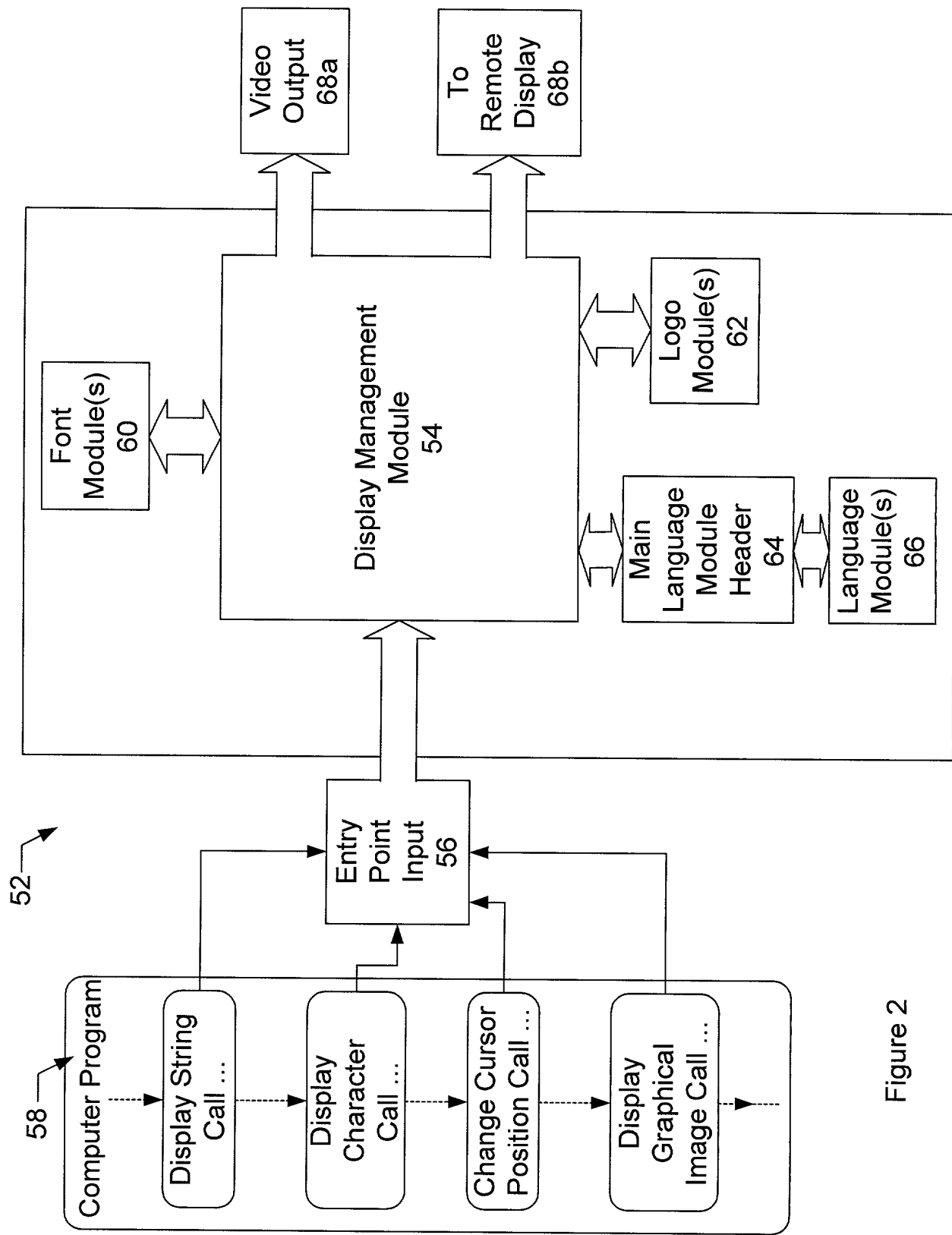
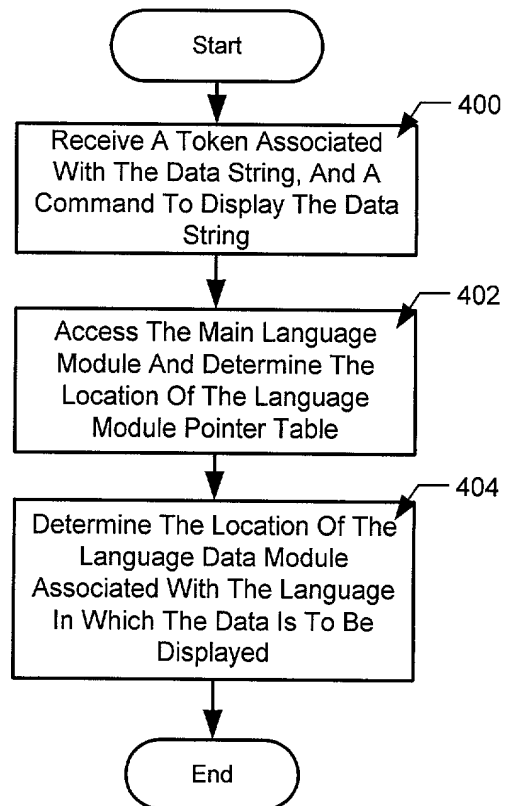


Figure 2



Language Module 66
Header 70
String Pointer Table 72
String Data Area 74
Extended ASCII Font Data Area 76
DBCS Font Data Area 78

Figure 4

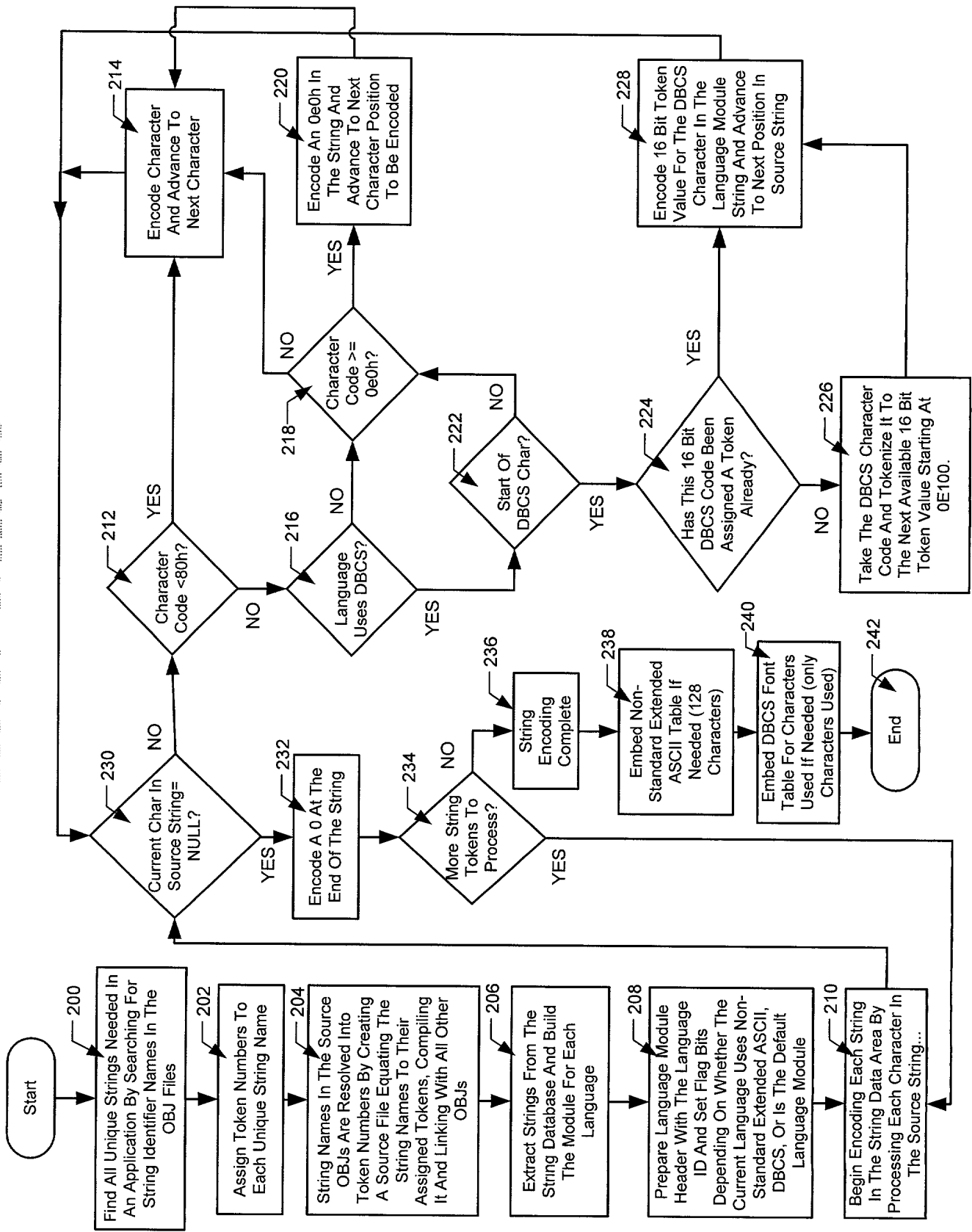


Figure 5

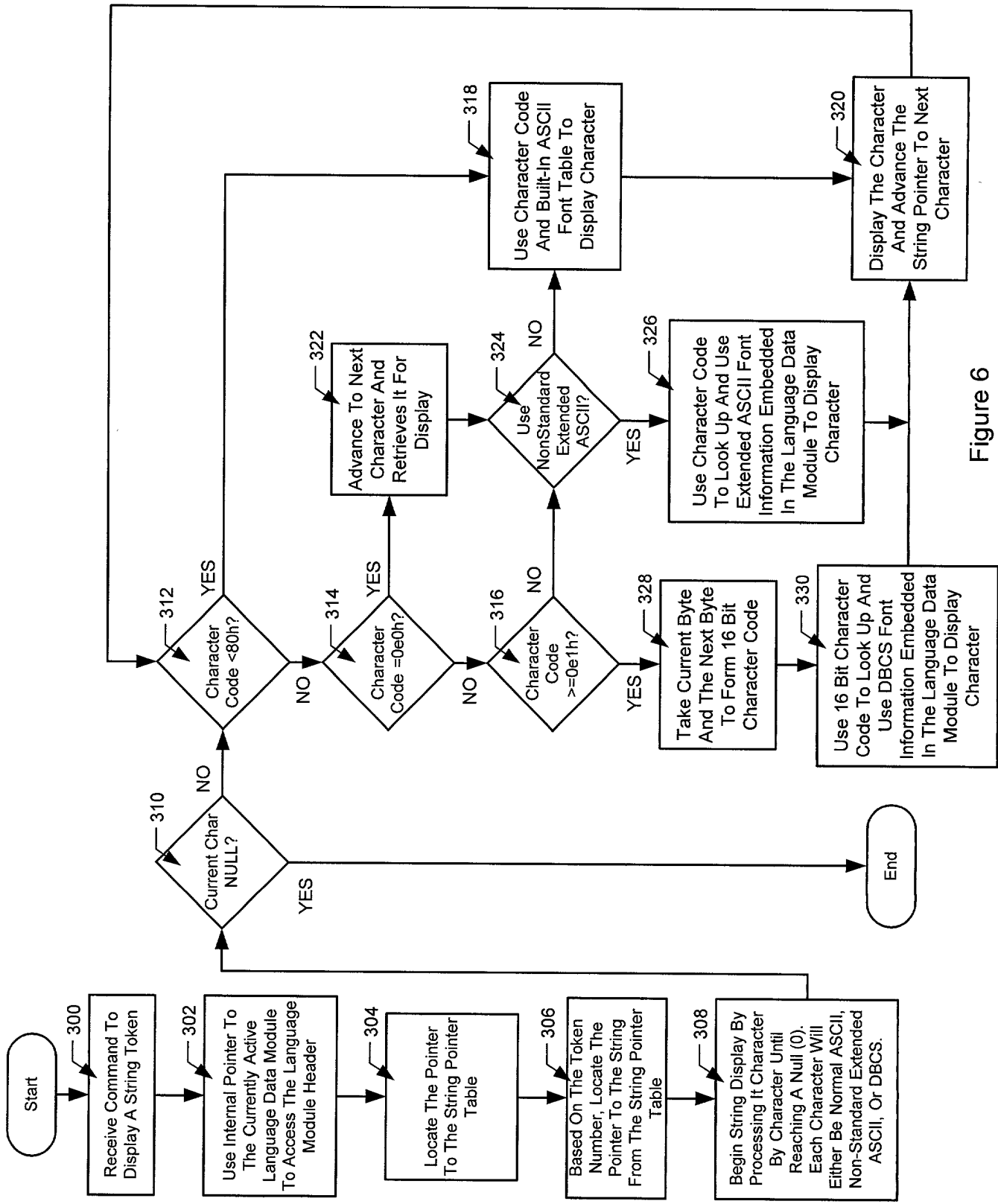


Figure 6

84

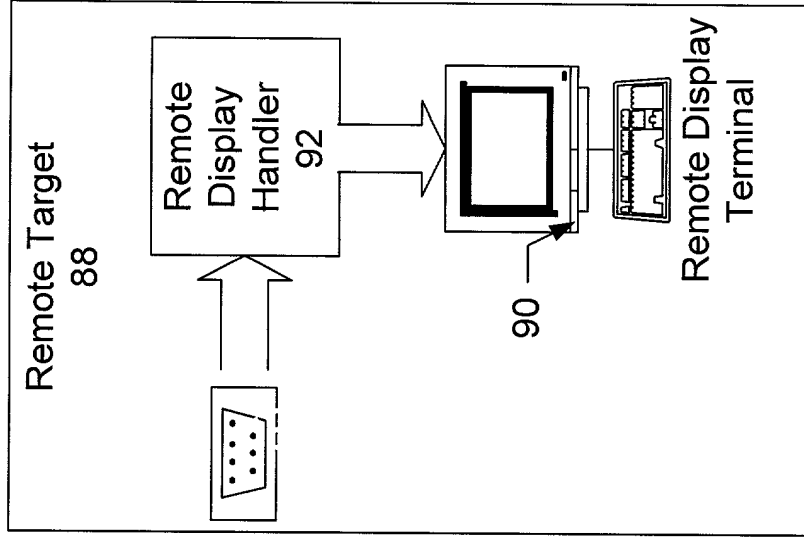
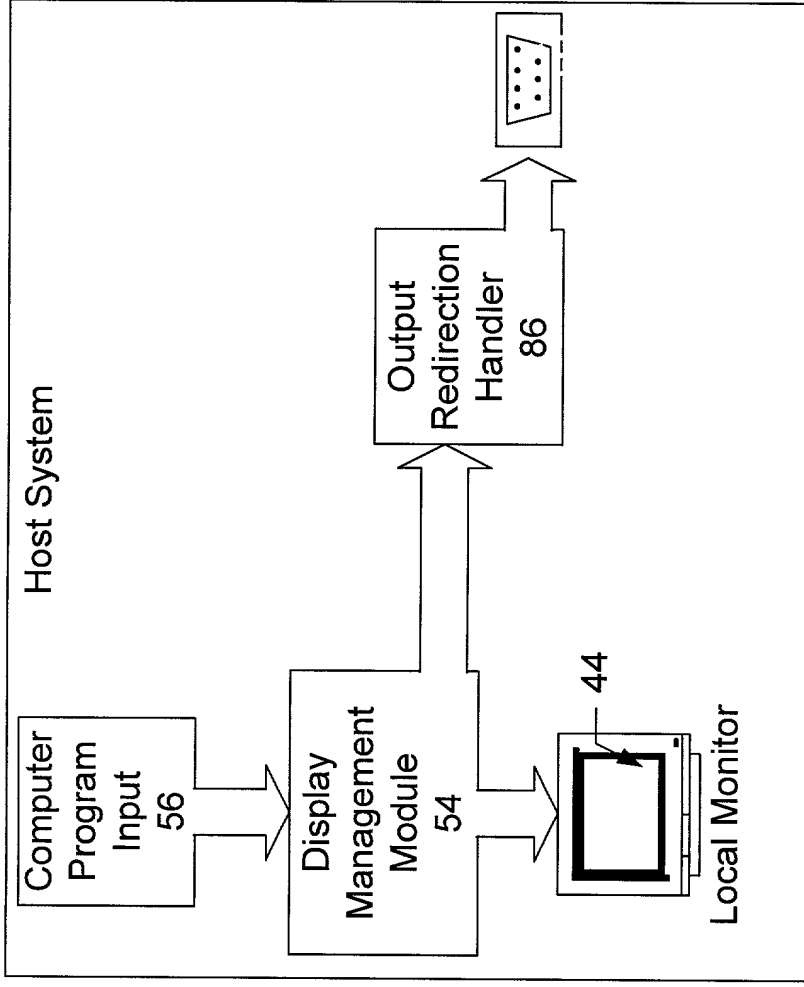


Figure 9

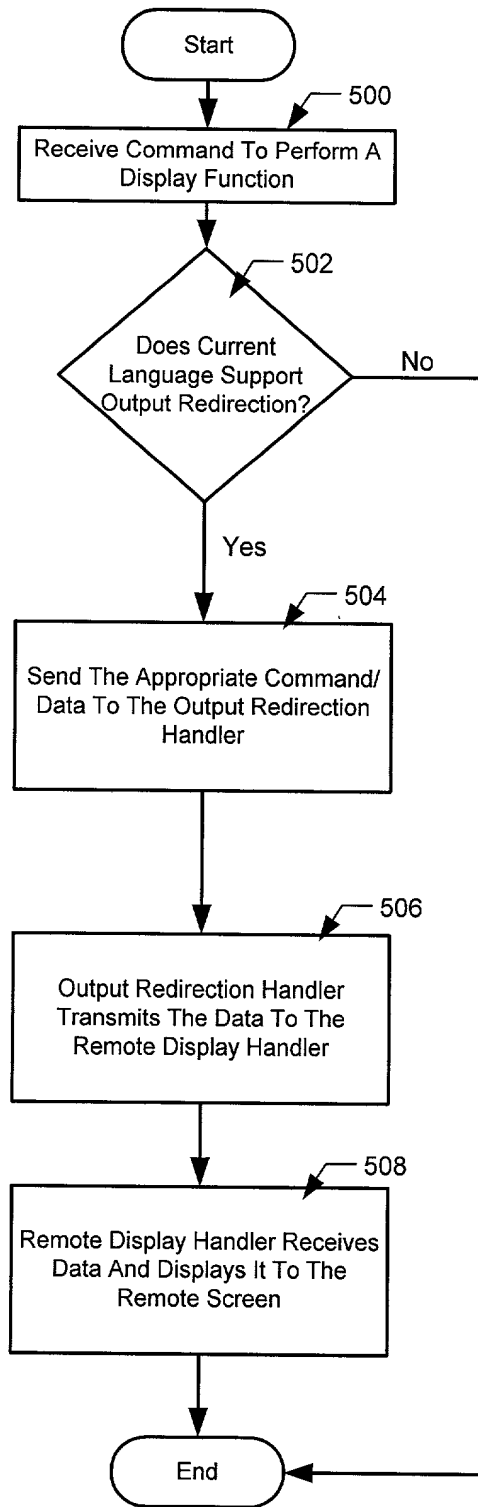


Figure 10

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

Attorney Docket No. 42626/204668

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

DATA STRUCTURE, METHODS, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCTS FOR
STORING TEXT DATA STRINGS USED TO DISPLAY TEXT INFORMATION ON A
DISPLAY TERMINAL,

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto

OR

☐ was filed on _____ as United States Application No. or PCT International Application
Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

(None)			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Number	Country	MM/DD/YYYY Filed	Priority Claimed
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Number	Country	MM/DD/YYYY Filed	Priority Claimed
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Number	Country	MM/DD/YYYY Filed	Priority Claimed

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

60/216,901	07-07-2000
Application Number	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Application Number	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or § 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)).

(None)		
Application No.	Filing Date	Status Patented/Pending/Abandoned
Application No.	Filing Date	Status Patented/Pending/Abandoned
Application No.	Filing Date	Status Patented/Pending/Abandoned

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the practitioners associated with the Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and direct that all correspondence be addressed to that Customer Number:

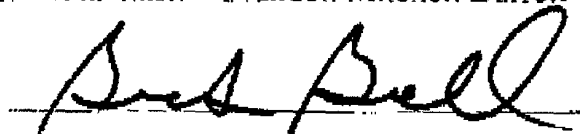
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